

SENATE No. 730

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walsh, Marian (SEN)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a self sufficiency standard in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Marian Walsh	Suffolk and Norfolk
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01113 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SELF SUFFICIENCY STANDARD IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Whereas, In today's economy, employers face a shortage of skilled labor;

2 Whereas, Lower-wage workers do not earn enough to support their families;

3 Whereas, Lack of an adequately prepared workforce can cause employers to turn to workers

4 outside of the Commonwealth;

5 Whereas, A skilled labor shortage can have an impact on the economic strength of the

6 Commonwealth; and

7 Whereas, The poverty guidelines as measured by the federal government do not adequately

8 reflect the costs of living in Massachusetts;

9 Therefore, It shall be the responsibility of the Commonwealth to define a self-sufficiency

10 standard in order to provide a measure of the extent to which the incomes of households in

- 11 Massachusetts are sufficient to support the costs of living, working, raising a family, and paying
- 12 taxes in Massachusetts.